

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5923

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT IN US FR PK

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER GANDHI ON NUCLEAR POLICY, REGIONAL AFFAIRS,
SUPER POWER RELATIONS AND THE EMERGENCY

1. IN A WIDE RANGING INTERVIEW GIVEN TO IRANIAN JOURNALISTS
ACCOMPANYING PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA (SEPTTEL), PRIME MINISTER
GANDHI PRESENTED HER CURRENT VIEWS ON SEVERAL TOPICS:

A. NUCLEAR AFFAIRS. ASKED ABOUT INDIAN VIEWS ON THE FRENCH
DECISION TO EQUIP PAKISTAN WITH THE MEANS FOR PRODUCING NUCLEAR
WEAPONS, MRS. GANDHI SAID INDIA DOES NOT APPROVE OF THE STOCKPILING
OF NUCLEAR ARMS BY ANY COUNTRY. SHE ADDED THAT INDIA CONSIDERS
THE NPT "VERY UNFAIR" TO THE HAVE NOT NATIONS. MRS. GANDHI AFFIRMED
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THAT INDIA DID NOT HAVE AN ATOM BOMB NOR DID IT INTEND TO MANUFACTURE

ONE. SHE IS QUOTED "WE DON'T BELIEVE IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS"

B. BANGLADESH. MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT IT IS NOT ON THE INDIAN SIDE THAT FRIENDSHIP IS WANTING. SO FAR AS WATER DISPUTES ARE CONCERNED, "WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IT AND THINK THERE IS A DESIRE THAT THESE THINGS BE SETTLED THROUGH NEGOTIATION AND DISCUSSION".

C. SOVIET AND CHINESE RELATIONS. INDIA'S INITIATIVE IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH CHINA WILL NOT AFFECT ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

D. THE INDIAN OCEAN. QUESTIONED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE SUPER POWERS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, MRS. GANDHI IS QUOTED, "(THE) DIFFERENCE IS THAT THE RUSSIANS DON'T HAVE A BASE. I MEAN THEY MAY BE GOING BACKWARD AND FORWARD, BUT WE HEAR THIS BASE (DIEGO GARCIA) IS GOING TO BE A NUCLEAR BASE." SHE SAID SHE HAD READ ABOUT IT (APPARENTLY A REFERENCE TO ALLEGED NUCLEAR FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA). SEE NEW DELHI 4157.

E. THE EMERGENCY. MRS. GANDHI IS QUOTED: "THERE IS NO BAN ON ANY OPPOSITION PARTY AT ALL". ONLY TWO OR THREE RELIGIOUS GROUPS WERE BANNED. SHE ADDED THAT INDIA BELIEVED IN SECULARISM AND COMMUNAL PARTIES WERE LIKELY TO CREATE DISTURBANCES. SHE SAID THAT MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL LEADERS DETAINED HAD BEEN RELEASED AND PRESS CENSORSHIP RELAXED.

2. THE INTERVIEW WAS NOT WIDELY PLAYED TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. WE SAW IT ONLY IN THE HINDUSTAN TIMES.SAXBE

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